

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0454

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJ: RESULTS OF MARCH 21 WORKING GROUP SESSION

1. MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME OF SESSION WAS FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF WHAT ARGENTINES HAVE IN MIND RE PARANA MEDIO PROJECTS (SEE SEPTTEL FOR FURTHER ACCOUNT). BOTH SIDES UNDERSTOOD THAT GIVEN COMPLEXITIES AND LONG RANGE NATURE OF PROJECTS, ABOUT THE MOST THAT COULD BE DONE BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT HERE WOULD BE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES IN GENERAL TERMS SO THAT SECRETARY HOPEFULLY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO VOICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN PRINCIPLE IN PROJECT.

2. ARGENTINE SIDE INFORMED US THAT THEY HAD RECIVED INDICATIONS FROM ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT FOR A FEW DAYS, FROM, SAY, FIRST WEEK UNTIL SECOND WEEK IN APRIL. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISIT CAN GO FORWARD WITHOUT NEW POSTPONEMENTS, BUT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ADJUST PLANS TO BRIEF POSTPONEMENT IF THIS PROVES NECESSARY.

3. ON CUBAN ISSUE, ARGENTINE SIDE INDICATED MAIN CONCERN WAS TO AVOID FURTHER EMBITTERING AND DIVISIVE DEBATE. THEY BELIEVED IT BETTER TO FIND SOME WAY AROUND THE ISSUE RATHER THAN MEETING IT HEAD ON. TOW STEP FORMULA SUGGESTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS APPEALED TO THEM
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FOR THIS REASONS. THEY WANT TO MAEK CERTAIN US SIDE

UNDERSTANDS HOWEVER THAT THEY WISH TO TAKE CARE OF THE CUBAN SANCTIONS ISSUE QUICKLY AND WITH A MINIMUM OF DEBATE AND THAT THEY THEN HOPE WAY WILL BE CLEARED FOR CUBAN PARTICIPATION AT MFM--PROVIDED THEY ARE ASSURED THAT IT WILL NOT PLAY A DISRUPTIVE ROLE.

4. MALVINAS ISSUE WAS EXPLORED ON MARCH 17 (SEE BA 1907). ARGENTINE SIDE REITERATED AGAIN ON MARCH 21 THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT MUCH FROM US, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GESTURE WE CAN AMKE.

5. SECRETARY GENERALSHIP WAS DROPPED BY AGREEMENT AS AN ISSUE FOR WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS. ARGENTINE INDICATED FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES WILL PROBABLY MENTION IT TO SECRERARY KISSINGER BUT WILL NOT EXPECT LATTER TO INDICATE US POSITION (I.E. FOR WHOM US WILL VOTE) AT THAT TIME.

6. ARGENTINES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING WHETHER US SAY ANY SPECAIL PROBLEMS ARISING AT OAS/GA IN ADDITION TO CUBA. IF SO WHAT WERE THEY? WE AGREED TO ASK FOR DEPARTMENTS VIEWS.

7. TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEK TO EXPLORE ECONOMIC ISSUES, ESPECIALLY HOW THEY NOEW VIEW TRA. HILL

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